

## **COLORADO FACT SHEET**

### **Oil Shale Research, Development and Demonstration Nominations**

The BLM received 10 nominations for oil shale RD&D leases in Colorado.

Three of these 10 were submitted by the same applicant, Shell Frontier Oil & Gas, a subsidiary of Shell Oil Company. Shell is currently testing oil shale technology on private land (the Mahogany Test Site) that lies in the same vicinity but to the west of the nominated parcels on federal land.

A total of six (6) RD&D nominations for parcels in Colorado are being forwarded for further consideration: the three nominations from Shell, the nomination from Chevron Shale Oil Co., the nomination from EGL Resources, Inc., and the nomination from Exxon Mobil Corporation.

The parcels associated with all six nominations in Colorado are in Rio Blanco County, the BLM White River Resource Area/ Meeker Field Office.

All six parcels lie southwest of Meeker, west of Piceance Creek, and south of the Duck Creek ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern).

Each oil shale RD&D nomination encompasses a 160-acre tract and associated preference rights to an additional contiguous area of 4,960 acres to be reserved for a preferential right to convert to a commercial lease at a future time after additional BLM review.

In this way, each RD&D nomination identifies 5,120 acres.

All of the acres identified in the nominations will be eventually developed *only if* all six RD&D proposals are cleared during the next round of review and all six are later able to convert their adjacent reserved acres upon additional BLM review.

If none of the six proposals are allowed to advance beyond the NEPA analysis that represents the next round of BLM's evaluation, then *no* (0) acres of public land in Colorado will be leased under the RD&D oil shale program.

RD&D leasing is proceeding on a separate track from commercial oil shale leasing, which is being examined in a programmatic EIS now underway with scoping meetings this week in Colorado.

The direction to prepare this EIS and a timetable for initiating commercial oil shale leasing is contained in Section 369 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.